

Input requested from District Clerks regarding specific information on the affect of paying for federally funded personnel out of that federal fund and not the Retirement Fund. SB 56 by Senator Don Ryan

Wolf Point (Roosevelt Co)

Paying for retirement out of federal funds for this school year took approximately \$12,700 out of IDEA-B, and \$12,600 out of the Title program for a total of \$25,300 coming from federal funds. We could have paid for two more aides this year, or one more entry level teacher.

Shari Hurst, Clerk

Whitehall (Jefferson Co)

In the Whitehall Elementary District only, the total that would have been paid from the retirement fund for federally funded employees comes to over \$11,000 so far this year.

This is bound to make an impact and take away from programs for kids.

Judy McCrossin, District Clerk

Whitehall Schools

Canyon Creek (Yellowstone Co)

I talked to my Superintendent and the Title I teacher. They said we would have used the \$5767 to hire a Title I paraprofessional part-time and to provide a short "jump-start" Summer School program in August to get our Title I kids off to a better start. As it turned out, we barely had enough Title I money to buy any supplies...and that was after "redirecting" some of the other Title money to Title I.

Susan Zentz, Business Manager

Canyon Creek School District 4

Billings, Montana

Plentywood (Sheridan Co)

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Elysian Elementary (Yellowstone Co)

Elysian spends approx \$2000.00 in Title funds on expenditures (retirement) that could be spent on the kids.

Bissell-Olney (Flathead Co)

For our small school it means about a 15% loss of funding for all of our federally supported programs. This means one day a week less services for those who could really benefit from a full week of instruction. It is difficult to meet the NCLB requirements when we are not given the funds for 100% services. Thank you.

Glendive Schools (Dawson Co)

It takes around \$61,000 in Glendive to pay benefits that could pay an extra title teacher. Fay Dear, Business Manager

Kalispell Schools (Flathead Co)

Elem Title I - reduction in force 2 FTE (math and reading Tutors). \$44,000
IDEA (Special Ed) Part B - reduction in force 7 FTE para educators. \$154,000
Title II, A - General Fund impact \$29,700
Todd Watkins, Business Manager

Kila School (Flathead Co)

12 % of my Title budget goes to retirement. That's a little over \$8000.00 from a \$68,000 budget. This jeopardizes our summer program, limits our books and supplies.
Sharon Leach, Clerk
Kila School

Victor (Ravalli Co)

We cut a full time teacher - it removed about \$30,000 from our budget.
Luanne Bauman, District Clerk
Victor School District #7

Terry (Prairie Co)

For FY06, the dollar amount to pay retirement costs out of all of our grants was \$17,864.87. Obviously, this would buy a lot of supplies, etc.
Cathy Kalmback, Clerk
Terry Public Schools

Clinton (Missoula Co)

Of the \$11,047.76 that we have budgeted for retirement costs in Title I, we could have hired an additional instructional aide to better serve the children in our program.
Rhonda Decker, Business Manager
Clinton School District 32

Polson Schools (Lake Co)

Title I \$56265 less to be used in Title I for salary (this year means a loss of 1.25 fte certified staff or 3.75 paras)
Title II \$21490 less to be used in Title II for salary (this year means a loss of .5 fte certified staff)
Pam Owen, Business Manager

Evergreen EI (Flathead Co)

"According to my figures for 06-07, \$27780 was taken out of Part B and Preschool federal dollars to pay for retirement funds that could not be used from Fund 14 due to legislative action. The district had to add a special education instructional aide at a cost of \$13517. This money came from the general fund and could have come from federal dollars except that the money was used to pay retirement on current employees paid out of federal dollars. A second instructional aide was hired in January. Since federal funds were used for retirement, this salary had to come from other sources. Due to declining federal dollars, the impact on supplies is critical. With curriculum changes in math and reading, the special education program has to find other sources for purchasing these textbooks including the general fund. In 05-06, \$14000 of federal dollars were used to purchase computerized reading programs. This money is no longer available for additional computerized stations or for upgrades of existing programs. In 06-07, over \$3582 of general fund money was used to purchase reading and math textbooks for special education students."

Sue Paulson, Special Services Director, Evergreen School District

Lame Deer Schools (Rosebud Co)

We are paying \$131,873.04 in retirement from our federal funds. Money from impact aid was used to cover the effected programs, which resulted in the cancellation of purchasing buses to replace our aging fleet and replacing two members of the maintenance department.

Programs effected: Tutoring, Mentoring, and Intervention programs.
Kim Hiwalker, Clerk

Lockwood Schools (Yellowstone Co)

For Lockwood Schools for the 2006-07 school year, paying the retirement on federally funded employees out of that federal fund instead of the retirement fund reduced staffing to work with at risk students. We have \$47,000 less to hire staff to provide services for at risk students.

Diane Brook, Business Manager/District Clerk

Choteau Schools (Teton Co)

I am only going to address Title I as it is the easiest to calculate, but this definitely affects all the Title programs because I pay a lot of salaries from each of these. Paying retirement out of the Title I fund cost almost \$14,000 this year for the Choteau School District. Our Title allocations have been decreasing each year by about this much. This year we adjusted for these costs and the retirement costs by eliminating two reading aides for the primary grades. This was "doable" this year because we have a 1st grade class of 9 so the student numbers weren't there for these additional reading aides. Next year we will have a 1st grade class of 31+ and should add these two reading aides again, but will be unable to because of the retirement costs. In fact, if the allocation again decreases we may have to eliminate a Title I pullout aide or decrease hours for all of the aides. \$14,000 in retirement costs equates to one

tutor! These Title I tutors (pullout, reading, in class, etc.) have a very positive impact on at risk students so any cut backs in this area is detrimental for the District and our students. Hope this helps.
Gloria Davis, Choteau Schools Clerk

Corvallis Schools

The legislation which took place several years ago requiring federally paid employees retirement come out of the federal program money was devastating to our district. The initial impact was the elimination of all operating dollars which previously had gone to the expenses of running the Title I program: books, supplies, new materials, evaluations and new staffing. In the years since we have seen a steady decrease in the allocation the district receives. In order to cover salaries as well as all the benefits we have had to make cuts to staffing. Obviously the direct impact is upon the students we serve. The Title I program can now only serve Priority I students and monitor Priority II students; no Priority III students receive service. The support we are able to provide to teachers has been impacted negatively with fewer staff being available for in-class support of students. Our ability to purchase new materials, programs etc. has been limited to funding that comes through the Rural Low Income grant – if that money were to go away so would our ability to operate our Title I program; we would be forced to make more cuts to staffing again impacting the number of students we are able to support. The elimination of this legislation would open a door of opportunity for our students, which has been closed for several years. There are no guarantees with federal dollars, but not being required to also cover retirement out of our allocation would alleviate a great deal of budgetary pressure.
Ginny Haines

Target Range (Missoula Co)

I would like to express my ideas about SB 56. It would be a very good idea to remove the retirement costs from grant expenditures. Just this year our school has spent \$14,124.77 from our grants in retirement costs through March 10, 2007. This figure alone would allow the school the opportunity to hire another paraprofessional or a part-time instructor. The impact in our school district would be tremendous due to the overwhelming number of students that have special needs. Please take this opportunity to convey our needs to your fellow representatives.

Thank you for being a voice for us!

Tammy Tulberg, Business Manager/District Clerk
Target Range School

Fair-Mont-Egan Schools (Flathead Co)

I calculated that we could pay for an additional 72 hours of aide time per month without the cost of retirement for our current payroll. Because our Title and Sp Ed IDEA funds are based on general ANB and not how many students we need to serve, our service is out of proportion to the amount of funding we receive.

Susan Clanton, Fair-Mont-Egan School #3

Frenchtown (Missoula Co)

From 2003-04 through 2005-06 the District expensed an average of 10% of the Federal monies is received during this period on retirement. It increased from 7% of the Federal monies received in 2003-04, to 11% in 2004-05 to 12% in 2005-06. Consequently during those same years, the AMOUNT of Federal monies received has dropped 9%.

For us this essentially meant we were unable to fund almost 2 instructional aides or 1 young teacher in 2003-04 out of these Federal monies to almost 2.5 instructional aides and 1.3 teachers by 2005-06. I'm sure that this current year will increase the additional difference (less federal money and more to retirement costs) to almost 3 instructional aides and almost 1.5 teachers. This is a big impact on the students. We need the aides and the teachers so this money is coming out of our General Fund, which even with the special legislative session two years ago, doesn't cover fixed cost increases for the District.

Cindy McMurray, District Clerk